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HISTORY

OF

LEEDS AND GRENVILLE

ONTARIO,

FROM 1749 TO 1879,

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

BY THAD. W. H. LEAVITT.

1879.

ILLUSTRATED BY E. A. TURNER.
RECORDER PRESS, BROCKVILLE.
LITHOGRAPHS BY DAVIDSON, WEELAN & YOUNGER.

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day of the same month the State Arsenal at Watertown was robbed of quite a quantity of munitions of war, and steps taken by the Hunters' Lodges for an immediate descent upon Canada.

On the night of the 29th of May, the British steamboat *Sir Robert Peel*, owned principally by parties who resided in Brockville, on her passage up from Prescott to the head of the lake, touched a wharf at Well's Island for the purpose of obtaining a supply of wood. The captain of the steamer was informed that armed men had been seen on the island during the day; but he took no heed of the warning, let down the steam, and proceeded to take on the wood. After the boat had been moored about an hour, a band of men armed with guns and bayonets, painted and dressed in Indian costume, suddenly rushed upon the boat, and, by hideous yells and threats, drove all the officers, hands and passengers on shore. Many of the passengers in the ladies' cabin were not given sufficient time to dress, and lost the greater part of their baggage.

The pirates then plundered the boat of such valuables as they could lay hands upon, after which they attempted to get the vessel out into the stream, but in so doing she was run upon a shoal. The torch was then applied, and the steamer burned to the water's edge. The number of armed men engaged in the piracy was twenty-two; their place of encampment having been a secluded spot on Abel's Island.

At five o'clock in the morning, while the *Sir Robert Peel* was still burning, the steamer *Oneida* arrived and took off the passengers, conveying them to Kingston.

The leader of the party who engaged in the piracy subsequently published the following manifesto in the American newspapers:

To all whom it may concern:

I, William Johnston, a natural born citizen of Upper Canada, certify that I hold a commission in the Patriot Service of Upper Canada, as Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces and flotilla. I commanded the expedition that attacked and destroyed the steamer *Sir Robert Peel*. The men under my command in that expedition were nearly all natural born English subjects; the exceptions were volunteers for the expedition.

My headquarters were on an island in the St. Lawrence, without the jurisdiction of the United States, at a place named by me Fort Wallace. I am well acquainted with the boundary line, and know which of the islands do, and do not, belong to the United States; and in the selection of the island I wished to be positive, and not locate within the jurisdiction of the United States, and had reference to the decision of the Commissioners, under the 6th article of the Treaty of Ghent, done at Utica, in the State of New York, June 13th, 1822. I know the number of islands, and by that decision it was British Territory.

I yet hold possession of that station, and we also occupy a station some twenty or more miles from the boundary of the United States, in what was His Majesty's dominions, until it was occupied by us. I act under orders. The object of my movements is the independence of the Canadas. I am not at war with the commerce or prosperity of citizens of the United States.

Signed the tenth day of June, 1838.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

Governor Marcy of New York immediately issued a proclamation offering a reward of $500 for the arrest of Johnston; $250 for Daniel McLeod, Samuel C. Frey, and Robert Smith; and $100 each for the detection and arrest of the other offenders. The Canadian Government also offered a reward of $5,000 for the conviction of any person or persons concerned in the outrage.

On the morning of the 2nd June, 1838, the American steamer *Telegraph* called at Brockville, and was hailed by two sentries belonging to the militiamen. Not responding, six shots were fired by the sentry, three of the balls taking effect in the steamer. Upon examination it was ascertained that the firing was not justified by orders, the sentries stating that they had discharged their pieces as alarm guns.

BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

Early in November, 1838, the so-called Patriots rallied in clubs and secret lodges, making preparations for a descent upon Canada. Bands of men assembled at Syracuse, Sackett's Harbour, Watertown, and Oswego, who openly declared their intention of invading British soil. Large quantities of arms and munitions of war were collected and secreted along the St. Lawrence frontier.

On the 10th of November, two schooners, named the *Charlotte of Oswego*, and the *Charlotte of Toronto* were freighted at Oswego, from boats that had arrived from Syracuse by the Oswego Canal. The steamer *United States* left Oswego about nine o'clock on Sunday morning, the 11th November, to continue her regular down trip. She had on board at the time about one hundred and fifty passengers. A nail keg was put on board, the head of which came out, when it was found that the keg was filled with bullets. A number of boxes were taken on board, marked Cape Vincent. When the steamer arrived at Sackett's Harbor, about thirty men came

on board. On reaching Cape Vincent, an additional reinforcement was received. On arriving at the foot of Long Island, the two schooners that left Oswego on the 10th, were discovered and taken in tow by the steamer, a schooner being lashed to each side. After leaving French Creek, swords and pistols were taken from the boxes on board the steamer, with which the men proceeded to arm themselves. Just before the steamer reached Morristown (about eleven o'clock on Sunday night, Nov. 11) the schooners were unfastened and dropped astern. After remaining in Morristown about three hours, the *United States* proceeded to Ogdensburg, where she arrived at three o'clock on Monday morning. The schooners, after parting company with the steamer, proceeded to Prescott. They contained a military armament, under the command of General John W. Birge, but which were under the more immediate command of a Polish officer named Von Schoultz, who had engaged in military operations in his native land. Upon approaching Prescott, one of the schooners was made fast to the upper wharf, and Von Schoultz urged the men to land, with bayonets fixed, march into the village, and take possession of the fort. A difference of opinion as to the mode of attack arose, which led to a delay, and the schooner was cast off. Soon after, the *Charlotte of Oswego* grounded in the mud in the delta of Oswegatchie River. At daylight Monday morning, a crowd assembled on the dock at which the steamer *United States* was moored, seized an iron six-pounder, belonging to the Village of Ogdensburg, and a brass four-pounder, the property of the State of New York. The leaders then mustered a volunteer company, openly deriding the local civil authorities. Having obtained a crew, the fires of the steamer were lighted, and, as soon as steam was up, she left the wharf, and proceeded to the assistance of the schooner that had run aground. The schooner *Charlotte of Toronto*, after casting off from the upper wharf, fell down the stream, and took up a position, early in the morning, nearly opposite the windmill, about a mile below the village. The walls of the mill were thick and massive, and the interior divided into several stories. In the vicinity of the mill were several massive stone houses, all of which were at the time inhabited by families. The point on which the mill stands juts out a short distance into the St. Lawrence, and at that time the margin of the river was, for a considerable space above and below, overgrown by a thicket of cedar. At this point a lodgement was made, and a portion of the armament of the schooner was landed. The steamer *United States* did not succeed in pulling off the grounded schooner, and presently returned to the American shore. The *Experiment*, a British steamboat, was lying at this time at the wharf at Prescott; being armed with cannon, she fired upon her without effect. Additional hands were procured to navigate the steamer, which had herself grounded for a short time on her first trip, and she was again worked into the river, near where the schooner *Charlotte of Oswego*, lay aground, and soon after again returned. A demand was here made, from one on board to those on shore, for a longer hawser, which was promised from a neighboring store, and a quantity of bread and other provisions was conveyed aboard. On again leaving the dock she went out into the channel, going between the grounded schooner and the British shore, and passed down the river to Windmill Point, and was twice fired upon by the *Experiment*. After arriving at Windmill Point she remained there some time, and about this time the *Charlotte of Toronto*, having remained opposite the Windmill till about the middle of the day, sailed up the river and came to anchor near the American shore, not far from where the other schooner subsequently anchored, and remained till dark. The movements of the *United States* had consumed nearly half of the day, and she came up at almost the same time with the *Charlotte of Toronto*, and apparently with the view to cover her from the fire of the British steamboat. She again went down to Windmill Point, at each time of passing receiving a fire from the *Experiment*. As she was coming up on the last trip, a cannon shot from the British steamer entered the wheel house, and instantly beheaded a young man by the name of Solomon Foster, who stood as pilot at the wheel. During the last trip of the steamer it was observed that but a small part of those who went to Windmill Point returned. In the afternoon of Monday a small steamer, the *Paul Pry*, went from Ogdensburg to the stranded schooner, and succeeded in hauling her off. Not long after being relieved, she passed down and took a position near the other schooner, and in performing this service, encountered a brisk fire from the *Experiment*. During Monday there was frequent crossing of the river in small boats. Monday night was spent by the invaders at the Windmill and adjacent premises. On Tuesday morning the two schooners were seized by the United States Marshal. The *Charlotte of Oswego*, at the time of seizure, had on her deck two or three cannon, one being properly mounted on wheels, the others on small plank trucks. There were also on board, boxes and small casks, which contained guns and ammunitions of war. After the United States steamer had been seized, her machinery was taken apart, so that she could not be used. On Tuesday

the British armed steamers *Coburg* and *Victoria* arrived at Prescott with a reinforcement of troops, and at about seven o'clock, they, together with the *Experiment*, opened a discharge of cannon, throwing shot at the Windmill. The insurgents replied from their battery on shore. On Tuesday a detachment of forty men of the 83rd regiment, under Lieutenant Johnston, and thirty mariners under Lieutenant Parker, were landed, and joined by detachments of militia. At a quarter before seven the British advanced in two columns. The left, under Colonel D. Fraser, consisting of the mariners, Captain G. McDonnell's company of Highlanders, Captains Jones' and Fraser's companies of the 2nd regiment of Grenville militia, and 100 men of Colonel Martle's men of Stormont militia. The right column was led by Colonel Gowan, of the Queen's Borderers, and one hundred of Captain Martle's regiment. Soon after a line of fire blazed along the summit of the hill, in the rear of the mill, for about eighty or one hundred rods, and the report of small arms made an incessant roar. The invaders were mostly protected by stone walls, and comparatively secure, while the British were fully exposed in the open field, and suffered greatly from the sharp shooters posted in the upper portion of the mill. The British did not at that time have at Prescott guns of sufficient weight to make a sensible impression upon the massive walls of the tower, their shot rebounding from the surface without producing effect.

After twenty or thirty minutes, the party gave way, and retired over the hill. At the time when the action commenced, the invading force was supposed to have numbered about one hundred and eighty, but during the engagement, a party consisting of about fifty, were separated from their comrades, scattered, pursued and captured in detail. The invaders lost in the engagement five killed and thirteen wounded. Finding that the stronghold resisted any means of attack which they possessed, the British resolved to await the arrival of heavier cannon, taking precautions, meanwhile, to prevent any reinforcement being sent over from the American shore. From nine till three there was but little excitement. An irregular firing was kept up on the windmill, and a body of regulars fired an occasional volley at a stone house in which a portion of the insurgents were established. At three o'clock in the afternoon, a barn was burned by the invaders, as sheltering the British. During this time, the force occupied the windmill and several of the houses adjoining, and the brow of the hill. On the evening of the 13th, a requisition was sent to Sackett's Harbour by the Americans for more troops, to assist those already at Ogdensburg, in restraining any attempt at reinforcement. The dead and wounded lay on the field until the morning of the 14th (Wednesday), when the British sent a flag of truce for permission to bury the dead, and both parties were for a short time engaged in collecting and carrying off from the field the slain. On the forenoon of Thursday, Colonel North sent for several of the prominent citizens of Ogdensburg, to ask their advice on the propriety of applying to Colonel Young, the British commander, to ask of him the privilege of staying the further effusion of blood, by being allowed to remove the invaders, and becoming responsible that they should attempt no further disturbance on the frontier.

The measure met with the approbation of those consulted, and a messenger was despatched to consult with the British commander, who declined the proposition.

The steamers *Coburg* and *Victoria*, having been dispatched to Kingston for guns of greater calibre, and the machinery of the *Experiment* being under repair, the citizens of Ogdensburg determined, if possible, to remove their countrymen from their perilous position. This delicate and responsible service was entrusted to Preston King, Esq., at that time postmaster of the village. A sufficient number of volunteers were raised for the occasion, and the steamer repaired to the vicinity of the windmill. Among the volunteers, was a man connected with the invaders, who was said to be an officer of their organization; he was, for these reasons, recommended to open communication with them, and was sent on shore in a small row-boat, to announce the errand of the steamer, which, as the shore was shoal, and there was no wharf, was compelled to lay off several rods from the bank, to avoid grounding.

By subsequent information, it was ascertained that some person who went ashore in the first boat, reported that a reinforcement of men and supplies might soon be expected by the invaders, and they were advised to maintain their position.

After waiting a considerable time for the return of the row-boat, Mr. King took a new boat, repaired to the windmill, made known the nature of his errand, stated the folly of looking for reinforcements, and earnestly requested them to avail themselves of the only chance of escape that would be offered. The invaders refused to avail themselves of the offer, and Mr. King was reluctantly compelled to return, without having accomplished his purpose, any further than to bring off six or seven men from the mill. He had scarcely returned to port, when the British armed steamer

was seen proceeding down the river, and all chance of passing between the mill and the American shore was cut off.

On the morning of the 10th, the British, having received ordnance sufficient for the reduction of the place, set themselves at work as rapidly for their purpose. During the forenoon, an unconditional surrender was made, the prisoners being marched out between files of regulars, and conducted to Fort Wellington.

The following account of the battle is from a summary given by a British officer who was present, and also the official reports :—

Early in November, 1838, rumours had been very generally circulated, of an intended descent upon some part of the frontier of the Johnstown District, by brigands, who, it was well known, had been organizing on the American shore, for that purpose; but, from the secrecy of their proceedings and the extent of line (65 miles) to superintend, it was impossible to form a correct opinion as to the exact spot. Circumstances, however, induced Colonel Young, commanding the District, to imagine that Brockville or Prescott would be the point of descent; he accordingly took every precautionary measure of which his resourses would admit. Towards the 9th of the month, the reports on the subject gained still more credence, and scarcely a doubt remained that the period of invasion was not far distant. At this time, the whole force at Prescott (headquarters) consisted of thirty-five effective men, of the Lancaster (Glengarry) Highlanders, under Captain George Macdonnell; four weak companies, 1st and 2nd Battalions, of Grenville Militia, hastily collected, under Captains Dunham Jones, Fraser, Henderson, and Thomas; a few men of an independent company, which Captain Jessup had just been authorized to form; and fifty of the townsmen, under Captain McMillan, amounting altogether, to about 150 rank and file. This small and, for the greater part, undisciplined' band, was nightly 'under arms, either as piquets, or ready to move in a moment on any point. About 2 o'clock on the morning of Monday, the 12th, a suspicious sail was descried coming down the river, unusually close to shore, by the double sentries posted on the most prominent wharf, one of whom ran in immediately to apprise the commanding officer, who had left the spot but a few minutes before. The night being extremely dark, and it blowing hard, Colonel Young, supposing she would by that time be abreast of the town, ran down to Fraser's wharf, not far distant, and reached it just in time to assist in frustrating the efforts of the schooners (two being lashed together) to grapple with the wharf. He hailed without receiving an answer, and, perceiving the intention of the schooners to drop down to McMillan's wharf (distant about 150 yards), he hastened thither, closely followed by a few straggling townsmen, with arms, who were on the alert, and found their rapidly approaching, he, as well as Mr. Stephen Jones, hailing again to no purpose, although the schooners were so near that a person could have jumped on board. Colonel Young threatened to fire into them, when a man cried out, *Charlotte of Toronto; George, Master,*" at the same time, putting the helm down, and standing across the river, towards the American shore. The vessels separating immediately afterwards, and the night being very dark, they were soon out of sight. In a short time after, the American steamboat *United States* came down, and went into the port of Ogdensburg, immediately opposite Prescott; and about an hour before daylight, the small British steamer *Experiment*, with one 18-lb. cannonade, and one 3-lb. carriage-gun, commanded by Lieutenant Fowell, of the Royal Navy, arrived from Brockville, with Colonel Duncan Fraser and the volunteers on board, and, having ascertained that the schooners were in the American waters, returned, and remained in front of the town for its protection. The alarm spreading rapidly through the town, the inhabitants of every class turned out to join the troops, and the intense anxiety for daylight is not to be described. Every eye was on the strain, and, at the first dawn, two large schooners (one aground), their decks covered with men, were seen at anchor in the American waters, near Ogdensburg, and about three-quarters of a mile from Prescott. The proximity of a formidable enemy was no longer doubtful. Soon after sunrise, numerous boats, crowded with men, passed frequently between the American shore and the vessels, and an immediate attack upon the town was naturally expected. Between 7 and 8 A. M., the *United States* was observed getting up her steam, and, shortly afterwards, three gentlemen, of Prescott, returned from Ogdensburg, where they had gone to ascertain the real state of things, informed us that the *United States* was in possession of the Patriots, that the mob had overpowered the authorities, and that they had taken possession of two guns (6 and 3-pounders) in charge of the Volunteer Artillery there. At the same time, a person came over, and stated that his brother, assistant engineer of the vessel, was obliged to superintend one of the engines, two men standing over him with pistols, and that the best men in Ogdensburg were putting wood on board, to enable her to cross over and take Prescott.

At 9 o'clock the *United States* left the port of Ogdensburg, and attempted to assist the schooner which had grounded on the bar, but finding her chain too short, she returned for another. On coming out again and entering the British waters, the little *Experiment* met her in a most dauntless manner, and gave her a shot from each of her guns. The *States* finding herself thus vigorously attacked, abandoned the schooner on the bar, and steered toward the Windmill Point, with the other schooner, the *Experiment*, still firing upon her, and sending into her two shots, one in the hull, the other in the stern works. However, the men on board those vessels (between 200 and 300), with three pieces of artillery, succeeded in landing, occupied the Windmill Point (a stone tower of considerable strength), and the stone buildings in the vicinity, threw up a breast-work on the brow of the hill, and placed two guns to command the road from Prescott, and another facing the river St. Lawrence. Lieutenant Farrell did not think it prudent to allow himself to be drawn too far down, lest the town should be attacked by the other schooner. He therefore put the *Experiment* about, and stood up the river at the moment the American steamer *Paul Pry* succeeded in getting the schooner off the bar, when observing them standing into British waters, he fired a charge of grape at the latter, and one of canister at the *Paul Pry*, the former of which took full effect, the wretches on board the schooner prostrating themselves on the deck and crying out for mercy. At this moment the *States* moving up, and the schooner's gib filling, the latter fired his guns at the *Experiment*, the shots falling in the town, and stood within the American channel. The *States* then appeared under a heavy pressure of steam, intending to run the little *Experiment* down before she could reach a shoal water; but the latter being put about, sent a lucky shot through her wheel house, and took off the pilot's head, which so discomfited the brigands, (there being no person on board acquainted with the bar) that the boat stood towards the light house, and dropped anchor close to Ogdensburg. The scene during this period was awful in the extreme to the inhabitants, who saw their town threatened at two points by at least 600 lawless foreigners, determined, no doubt, on massacre and plunder. The plan was well laid; the enemy must have been well aware of the impossibility of Colonel Young attempting to oppose their landing at the mill with any effect, so long as the town was menaced with an attack also from the force in his front. All he could do was to post parties a short distance in advance of the town, at the roads leading to the Windmill, the Rideau Canal and Brockville, the greater part of his small force remaining formed in the main street, ready to move at a moment's notice. Little could the enemy have calculated on the resistance they had to encounter from the *Experiment*. This boat appeared no larger than a ship's launch, in comparison to her opponent; but she was so skilfully manœuvred, and so gallantly fought, that the American could not gain the least advantage of her for one moment, although the most strenuous efforts were made. The cool and determined conduct of Lieutenant Fowell, and his brave crew, excited the admiration of all who witnessed this animated and momentous affair.

Being tolerably secure from any further attempt from the American steamboats, attention was chiefly directed to the force which had effected a landing at Windmill Point, than which no position in the neighborhood could be better calculated for their purpose. The bridge over Honeywell's Creek, one mile from Prescott, on the road to Brockville, having been taken up, and two dragoons going with despatches to that town, and a small piquet stationed at the bridge made prisoners and carried off by persons who landed there at daylight from two large boats, Mr. Stephen Jones offered to take a circuitous route, and procure such reinforcement as could be spared consistently with the safety of Brockville. Accordingly, Lieut.-Col. Gowan arrived at dark with the men he had enlisted for the Ninth Battalion Incorporated Militia, commanded by Captain Edmondson, with a few he had enlisted for an independent company; and they immediately, notwithstanding the fatigue of a long march and the inclemency of the weather, took up their position in front of and on the ruins of Fort Wellington, nearly the whole of the militia being, at the same time, posted to watch the enemy, and protect the town of Prescott. About midnight, Captain Sandom, R. N., commanding on the lakes, came down from Kingston in the armed steamer *Victoria*, accompanied by the *Cobourg*, with two officers and seventy-four men of the 83rd Regiment and Royal Marines on board, and having placed these detachments at Colonel Young's disposal, a combined attack on the position occupied by the enemy at the mill was decided upon. The probable line of defence to be adopted by the brigands (who had been considerably reinforced from the American shore during the early part of the night) being ascertained, Colonel Young made arrangements to move off his ground soon after daylight, in two columns—one composed of thirty men of the Royal Marines, under Lieut. Parker, of that corps, Captain George Macdonnell's company of the Lancaster (Glengarry) Highlanders, having a few of Captain Jessup's company attached

[illegible] Clark, amounting altogether to about 150 men, being placed under the command of Colonel Duncan Fraser, of the Grenville Militia (an officer well known in the Province for his remarkable energy and bravery), with instructions to move round some marshy ground, and attack the enemy in that direction; while the other, composed of forty-four men of the 83rd Regiment, and commanded by Lieutenant Johnson, and the 9th Battalion Johnstown Militia, with Captain Edmondson and his few men attached (about 160 in all), under charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Gowan, by the high road on the bank of the river, from Prescott to Johnstown, and, if successful in dislodging the enemy from the walls behind which they were posted, make an effort, in conjunction with Colonel Fraser's column, to carry the mill and other stone buildings. The charge of protecting the town, and watching the movements on the opposite shore, was entrusted to Captain Jessup, who, from his activity and knowledge of those he had to deal with, was well calculated for this duty. Information having been received, about three o'clock in the morning, of the approach of a detachment of the Stormont Militia, under Colonels Crysler and Markley, a dragoon was dispatched to meet and conduct them through the intricate country they had to traverse, and, when on the point of putting the columns in motion, Colonel Young had the satisfaction to see them arrive on the ground. The steamers under Captain Sandom dropping down towards the mill, no time could be spared to refresh the weary troops. Half of them, about eighty men, were instantly attached to each of the previously formed columns, when the order to advance was given, and the whole moved off towards their destined points. Both columns advanced in silence and with marked regularity, and in twenty minutes were within rifle-shot of the enemy, posted in force some distance in front and flank of the windmill. That led by Colonel Fraser was the first to receive their fire, and the action soon became general. The intervening ground was open, and Colonel Young, who accompanied the column that was advancing by the high road, being apprehensive that every shot from the men protected by the walls would tell, perceived at once the advantage of closing rapidly with them, and his order being obeyed in the most enthusiastic and determined manner, the enemy were, in less than an hour, dislodged in succession from all of the walls, some houses, and a grocery which they occupied, and compelled to fly for refuge to the mill and several valuable lives were lost, being kept up in the upper windows of the mill, and a strong stone store which flanked it as completely as if built for that purpose, the troops were placed under partial cover, within one hundred yards, in the hope that a breach would be made by the armed steamer, from which an incessant fire of shot [illegible] had been maintained from the [illegible] the operations.

At this time it was considered to be im[illegible] to make an effectual impression by such [illegible] the buildings, the balls glancing off without doing any injury. Colonel Young, unwilling to risk the advantage he had already gained, and the certain destruction of many more of his men, decided on drawing a cordon of sufficient force round the brigands, until heavier guns could be procured. Accordingly, having established the necessary p[illegible] and removed the wounded from the field, he ordered the remainder of the force back to Prescott at 3 P.M. Late in the evening, Lieutenant-Colonel Gowan's battalion returned to Brockville.

In the engagement, the detachments of the 83rd Regiment, the Royal Marines, and the Militia, displayed most fully the characteristic coolness and bravery of British soldiers, and the severe loss they suffered (74 killed and wounded) is the best proof of their determination to free their country from the band of miscreants who had dared to invade it. The faithfulness with which the Militia performed various harrassing duties, being exposed to wet and cold, was highly creditable to them. When the cordon was about to be formed, fatigued as they were, every man wished to remain—the entire body actuated by the same feeling—a full determination to prevent the escape of one of the murderous gang in the mill, and this determination was so fully carried out that all were eventually captured.

The service had to deplore the loss of Lieutenant Johnston, of the 83rd Regiment, a brave and valuable officer, who was killed within sixty yards of the mill; and Lieutenant Dulmage, of the First Battalion of Grenville Militia, who was killed at the head of his men. Lieutenant-Colonel Gowan was slightly wounded. Lieutenant Parker, of the Royal Marines, was severely wounded in the arm, but would not leave the field. Lieutenant Parlow, of Dundas Militia, and Ensign A. McDonald, of the Lancaster (Glengarry) Highlanders, having given ample proof of their gallantry, were also wounded. Every officer and soldier engaged did his duty to the utmost, Colonel Fraser and Captain George

McDonnell being conspicuous for their bravery during the day.

Major William McQueen, Captain Cargie, and many of the gentlemen of Prescott and Brockville, joined the force, and rendered much service by their spirited example.

The wounded men were kindly attended by Dr. Scott, Dr. Chisholm, and the other practitioners of Prescott.

The enemy stood their ground with more firmness than could be expected, and only retired before the bayonet. They suffered severely; two of their commanders, Brown and Phillips (supposed to be James Phillips, of Phillipsville), with eighteen men were killed; twenty were wounded, and twenty-six, including Colonel Abbey, the second in command, were taken prisoners.

RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED, BRITISH AND CANADIAN FORCE.

The 83rd Regiment.—One lieutenant killed; four rank and file wounded.

Royal Marines.—One rank and file killed; one lieutenant, and thirteen rank and file, wounded.

Lancaster (Glengarry) Highlanders.—Five rank and file killed; one ensign, and seven rank and file, wounded.

Ninth Provincial Battalion.—One lieutenant-colonel, and eight rank and file, wounded.

Dundas Militia.—Four rank and file killed; one lieutenant, and five rank and file, wounded.

First Regiment Grenville Militia.—Two rank and file killed; four rank and file wounded.

Second Regiment Grenville Militia—One lieutenant killed; four rank and file wounded.

Captain Edmondson's Brockville Independent Company.—One rank and file killed; three rank and file, wounded.

Captain Jessup's Company, Prescott.—Four rank and file, and one sergeant, wounded.

Gentlemen Volunteers.—Two wounded.

NAMES OF OFFICERS KILLED.

Lieutenant W. S. Johnston, 83rd Regiment.
Lieutenant Dulmage, Grenville Militia.

WOUNDED.

Lieutenant-Colonel O. R. Gowan, 2nd Provincial Battalion; slightly.

Lieutenant Parker, Royal Marines: severely.

Lieutenant Parlow, Dundas Militia; severely.

Ensign A. McDonnell, Lancaster Glengarry Highlanders; severely.

Gentlemen Volunteers—Russell, severely.

Gentlemen Volunteers—Wilson, slightly.

When intelligence reached Kingston, Colonel Dundas, of the 83rd Regiment, embarked a strong detachment and a battery of six-pounders. On arriving at Prescott, it was found that the field pieces were too light, and they were returned to Kingston in the afternoon, eighteen-pounders being sent down to reduce the walls of the mill.

Fully 2,500 men belonging to the Militia, had collected by the night of the 14th.

About 1 P. M., on Friday, the 16th, Colonel Dundas arrived from Kingston, with two eighteen-pounders and one howitzer, under Major McBean, R. A., and four companies of the 83rd, under Major Trydell. At half-past four P. M., the guns having been placed in position at 400 yards, the buildings occupied by the brigands were assailed by a well directed fire from the cannon, in conjunction with the armed boats on the river, under Captain Sandom. The large stone house being riddled, and its garrison driven out, the enemy in the mill displayed the white flag, and surrendered unconditionally to Colonel Dundas. One hundred and three prisoners were secured, including eighteen wounded. The total number was subsequently swelled to 160, the balance being discovered in the cedars near the river.

Colonel Dundas immediately re-embarked the troops which had accompanied him, with the prisoners in charge, and proceeded to Kingston at noon, on the 17th; the whole of the Militia who had assembled to give their aid, dispersing in the most orderly manner.

During the rebellion, a party of Americans landed on Hickory Island, about four miles below Gananoque. A force from the Canadian Militia was assembled, and steps taken for making an attack upon the invaders, who, considering discretion the better part of valor, "folded their tents like the Arabs, and as silently stole away."

Bill Johnston, the leader of the gang that burned the *Sir Robert Peel*, was in Ogdensburg during the battle of the windmill, and appeared openly on the streets. He and his son left the village in a small boat, which was pursued by the Collector of Ogdensburg. Johnston, being hard pressed, landed about three miles up the river, and finally surrendered to C. T. Boshwell and A. B. James. The prisoner was immediately conveyed to Sackett's Harbor.

The prisoners captured at the windmill were conveyed to Kingston, where they were confined. A few of the leaders were hanged, some were transported, while the boys, who formed a large percentage of the force, were, through the sugges-

tion of Judge Jones, of the Queen's Bench, set at liberty.

Some months elapsed ere the ill feeling engendered by the invasion subsided along the frontier, the greatest caution and forbearance being exercised by the officials on both sides of the line.

The steamer *United States* was particularly obnoxious to Canadians, in consequence of the active part she had taken in the battle of the windmill. On the 14th of April, 1839, as she was leaving Ogdensburg, several musket shots were fired from the wharf at Prescott, where a large crowd had assembled. The passengers also reported that shots were fired when she was passing Brockville.

On May 17th, 1839, the schooner *G. F. Weeks* stopped at Brockville, to discharge some merchandise. She had at the time a six-pound cannon on her deck, belonging to the State of New York, and consigned to A. B. James, of Ogdensburg, to replace the one that had been seized by the insurgents at the time of the battle of the windmill. The crowd on the wharf attempted to gain possession of the cannon, the crew of the vessel resisting. During the disturbance, the vessel was seized by the Collector of Customs. The gun was then taken by the citizens, who paraded the streets with it, and fired it repeatedly. Colonel North, the American commander at Sackett's Harbor, was promptly notified, and he repaired at once to Brockville in the steamer *Oneida*, and demanded of the Collector the grounds upon which the schooner had been seized. Not receiving a satisfactory answer, he proceeded to Prescott, and made a peremptory order upon Colonel Fraser for the release of the vessel and her cargo. The reply was returned that the vessel would be given up, but doubts were entertained whether the cannon could be recovered from those into whose hands it had fallen. Colonel North placed on board the *Oneida* one hundred regulars fully armed, and proceeded to Brockville. The steamer took up a position alongside the schooner, and a demand was once more made for the surrender of the vessel and the cannon. The wharves and block house were crowded with men, many of them armed, and the excitement was intense. The civic authorities exerted themselves to secure the return of the cannon, but were unable to persuade the excited citizens to surrender it quietly. Matters thus remained for several hours, during which a collision was momentarily expected. At 4 P. M., a steamer from Kingston, having on board a number of regulars, arrived, and, by their aid, several of the ringleaders were arrested and lodged in the guard house. The cannon was also secured, and promptly returned to the United States authorities. The tidings of the event brought his Excellency Governor Sir George Arthur to Brockville, where he was presented with an address signed by 200 persons, who protested against the manner in which the gun had been given up. In his reply, the Governor admitted that the seizure was illegal, and regretted that greater caution had not been exercised. The step once taken, he regretted that the seizure was abandoned without due authority, and, more especially, under the circumstances, admitting, at the same time, that the magistrates had acted with honest zeal. He declared that the seizure and firing of the cannon was a lawless proceeding, and regretted the personal abuse which had been offered to foreign officers, who had entered the country in the discharge of a public duty.

On the 4th of August, 1839, the American steam-packet *St. Lawrence* was met by Her Majesty's steamer *Montreal*, when nearly opposite Brockville. The *St. Lawrence* was ordered to show her colors, but not complying, W. N. Fawell, the British commander, gave orders to fire. Several muskets were discharged, but no lives lost. The affair was subsequently the subject of considerable correspondence between the British and American Governments.

Gradually the feeling of hostility disappeared; commerce and friendly intercourse were resumed between the citizens of the two countries, the past forgiven and an era of good-will set in, which, we trust, is destined to continue for all time to come.

The direct result of the rebellion was the establishment of Responsible Government and the inauguration of a judicious policy in accordance with the fundamental principles of the British Constitution. Experience had demonstrated that a succession of Governors, advised by a crown appointed Legislative Council, could not beneficially direct and control the affairs of a colony four thousand miles from Downing Street. The system was impracticable and of necessity failed. The baleful effects were felt for many years after, and were only eradicated by the inauguration of institutions yielding the greatest happiness to the greatest number.

CHAPTER XIV

The Past and the Present.

For many years the means of communication in the District of Johnstown were of the most primitive character. The water routes were at first only available; then came the King's Highway along the bank of the river, connecting Montreal with